

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

At the outset, appreciation is expressed to Examiner Estremsky for the indication that Claims 3-9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form,. Claim 1 has been amended to recite the subject matter set forth in Claims 2 and 3, and Claim 4 has been amended to recite the subject matter set forth in Claims 1 and 2.

The claims have been amended, including the subject matter added to Claims 1 and 4, to address the issues raised on page two and the top of page three of the Official Action. For example, Claims 1 and 4 have been worded to recite that the open unit operates at a plane surface of a housing of the door lock device. Also, the recitation of the lever rotating about an axis has been changed to define that the lever is rotatable about an axis.

With particular regard to the wording in original Claims 4-9 relating to the operational force, the claim wording has been changed in a manner that is believed to address the concern raised in the Official Action. The claim wording now more clearly sets forth that the operational force the lever is rotatable about the rotational axis by the operational force (i.e., by virtue of the operational force).

The claims as worded do not positively recite the vehicle door as a part of the claimed subject matter, but rather recite the intended use or functional capability of the door lock device in the context of a vehicle door.

In light of the amended claim wording, withdrawal of the claim rejection based on the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112 is respectfully requested.

It is believed that this application is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application or should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference with the undersigned would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL PC

Date: December 8, 2005

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